

Appl. No. 09/960,541
Response dated 4/17/2006
Reply to Office Action of 10/17/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 67-93 and 136-171 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Pearson, Excel Version 5 for Windows, published in 1993 by Que Corporation (hereinafter Pearson). Furthermore, the Examiner has provided a definition in the Advisory Action for the word “partition” that respectfully does not agree with the definition given in the specification. Please see paragraphs [0078] to [0083] and [0103] to [0112]. Applicant has amended claim 67 to clarify the meaning.

Regarding independent claim 67, the Examiner has stated:

“Pearson discloses family data in the form of a group of records related by a common value in Figure 36.1 on page 984 (the common value shown as the “Jan-94” value in the “Period” column”). Pearson also discloses in Figure 36.1 the family data as a hierarchical structure defined by a partition (see values in the “Region” column of the figure).”

The amended claim language in the first element of claim 67 reads:

“obtaining family data comprising a group of records related by at least one common value, wherein said family data comprises a subset of a hierarchical structure defined by a partition wherein said partition is stored in a partition table separate from said family data and wherein said partition table comprises at least one record comprising a field or attribute in said family data and wherein said field or said attribute is associated with a family JD wherein said at least one record in said partition table defines said partition and wherein said partition is layered upon an existing taxonomy in said family data and wherein said taxonomy comprises a category field and at least one further field comprising a manufacturer field;”.

Applicant maintains that Pearson at a minimum does not disclose this type of partitioning and this partitioning is distinct from the extrinsic dictionary definition provided by the Examiner in the Advisory Action and as such does not anticipate Applicant’s invention as claimed.

Since all of the dependent claims remaining depend on claim 67, the rejections to the dependent claims are respectfully rendered moot.

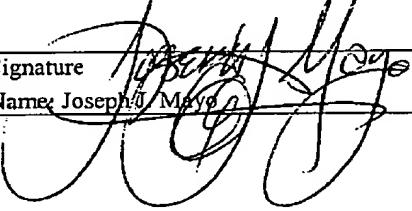
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CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is hereby respectfully requested to contact Applicant's representative for purposes of a telephone interview at the number listed below before any action (other than an allowance) is initiated.

Respectfully submitted,

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